

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office Action of March 12, 2007, applicant asks that all claims be allowed in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 16, 18-22, 26-28, and 59-70 are now pending, of which claims 1, 18, and 20 are independent. Claims 1-3, 6-11, 16, 18-22, and 26-28 have been amended; claims 4, 5, 12-15, 17, 23-25, and 29-58 have been cancelled; and claims 59-70 have been added. Support for the amendments and the new claims may be found in the specification at, for example, page 10, lines 24-29; page 11, lines 25-29; page 12, lines 11-14; page 13, lines 21-23; page 15, lines 30-32; page 22, lines 23-28; page 25, lines 29-32; FIG. 5, FIG. 10; and FIG. 16. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 8, 11, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by JP 2001-296873 (Noboru).¹ Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Noboru does not describe or suggest a driven circuit comprising a first transistor, as recited in claims 1, 18, and 20. Additionally, Noboru does not describe or suggest a first switch for controlling an electrical connection between the driven circuit and the precharge circuit and a second switch for controlling an electrical connection between the driven circuit and the current source circuit, as recited in claims 18 and 20.

Noboru relates to the drive approach of a current control display, such as a display device or a flat panel display. See Noboru at ¶ 0001. In Noboru, electroluminescence devices 10 are arranged in an “mxn” matrix at the intersection of “n” signal lines 11 and “m” scanning lines 12. See Noboru at ¶ 0015. Each signal line 11 is connected to a driving source 15(D) or 17(C) through a signal-line switch 13. See Noboru at ¶ 0015. The electroluminescence devices are made to emit light by this drive approach. See Noboru at ¶ 0015.

¹ The Office Action refers to JP 2001-296873 as Noboru, thus the applicant also refers to this reference as Noboru. However, applicant notes that Noboru is a first name and the family name of the inventor is Asahi.

Thus, in Noboru, a matrix of electroluminescence devices are driven by the driving sources such that they emit light. However, there is no indication that the driving sources 15(D) or 17(C) include a transistor. Additionally, the driving sources 15(D) and 17(C) drive the electroluminescence devices, which is in contrast to claim 1, which recites a driven circuit comprising a first transistor. Accordingly, Noboru does not describe or suggest a driven circuit comprising a first transistor, as recited by claim 1. For at least this reason, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 along with the rejection of claims 2, 3, 8, and 11, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1.

Claims 18 and 20 also recite, among other elements, a driven circuit comprising a first transistor. Thus, claims 18 and 20 are allowable over Noboru for at least the reasons described above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 18 and 20 are also allowable for the additional reason that Noboru does not describe or suggest a first switch for controlling an electrical connection between the driven circuit and the precharge circuit and a second switch for controlling an electrical connection between the driven circuit and the current source circuit. As discussed above, Noboru's signal-line switch 13 connects a signal line 11 to a driving source 15(D) or 17(C). However, even if the driving sources 15(D) and 17(C) may be equated with the recited precharge circuit and the current source circuit, the signal-line switch 13 connects each signal line 11 to one of 15(D) and 17(C). Thus, Noboru does not describe or suggest a first switch for controlling an electrical connection between the driven circuit comprising the first transistor and the precharge circuit and a second switch for controlling an electrical connection between the driven circuit comprising the first transistor and the current source circuit, as recited by claims 18 and 20. For at least this additional reason, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18 and 20 along with claims 19 and 21, which respectively depend from claims 18 and 20.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

Dependent claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 22, 26-28, and 44-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Noboru. These claims depend, directly or indirectly, from one of

claims 1, 18, and 20, and are allowable over Noboru for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 18, and 20. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claims 59-70

New claims 59-70 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of claims 18 and 20. Thus, the new claims are believed to be allowable over Noboru for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 18 and 20.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136, Applicants hereby petition that the period for response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2007, be extended for two months to and including August 12, 2007.

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The fee in the amount of \$450 in payment of a two-month extension of time fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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